

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph of the Summary of the Invention, beginning on line 3, page 2 of the Specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, during the recording of a set of data and a data freshness degree associated with the set of data a tape recording medium, a determination is made as to whether or not a fault occurs during the recording. In response to a determination that a fault occurs during the recording, a data freshness degree of data within a faulty portion on the tape recording medium in which said fault occurs is obtained. The data freshness degree of the set of data is then immediately recorded before the faulty portion on the tape recording medium. The data freshness degree is higher than the data freshness degree of data within the faulty portion